



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

July 30, 2013

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
TO THE CITIES OF MAYWOOD AND SOUTH EL MONTE FOR GRANTS TO AMIGOS DE LOS
RIOS FOR THE PLAY POCKETS AT MINI CENTER, RIVERFRONT, AND PIXLEY PARKS
PROJECTS
(FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$250,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Cities of Maywood and South El Monte for grants to Amigos De Los Rios to fund the development of enhanced play areas at Mini Center, Riverfront and Pixley Parks.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Mini Center, Riverfront Park and Pixley Park projects categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the projects consist of construction of new, small structures and minor alterations to land.
2. Allocate \$125,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of Maywood for a grant to Amigos De Los Rios for the Play Pockets Projects at Riverfront and Pixley Parks.
3. Allocate \$125,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of South El Monte for a grant to Amigos De Los Rios for the Mini Center Play Pockets Project.

4. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants in the amount of \$250,000 to Amigos De Los Rios for the Play Pockets Projects at Mini Center Project, Riverfront Park, and Pixley Parks after the Cities of Maywood and South El Monte each assigns its right to apply for the funds to the Amigos De Los Rios, if applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a total of \$250,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for grants to Amigos De Los Rios (Amigos), a qualified nonprofit organization, for Play Pocket Projects at Mini Center Project, Riverfront Park, and Pixley Park.

The proposed projects will include the following improvements at three existing City parks:

RIVERFRONT PARK – CITY OF MAYWOOD

Site preparation, including demolition and the purchase and installation of new play equipment, concrete curbing, and surfacing to create three new play pockets and enhance the existing play area for children ages 0-5, as well as their families. The project cost estimate is \$160,000, to be funded by \$100,000 of First 5 L.A.'s Tot Parks and Trails program funds and \$60,000 of Cities Excess Funds.

PIXLEY PARK – CITY OF MAYWOOD

Site preparation, including demolition and the purchase and installation of new play equipment, concrete curbing, and surfacing to create two new play pockets and a walking path for children ages 0-5 as well as their families. The project cost estimate is \$215,000, to be funded by \$150,000 of First 5 L.A.'s Tot Parks and Trails program funds and \$65,000 of Cities Excess Funds.

MINI CENTER – CITY OF SOUTH EL MONTE

Site preparation, including demolition and the purchase and installation of new play equipment, concrete curbing, and surfacing to create two new play pockets for children ages 0-5 as well as their families. The project cost estimate is \$225,000, to be funded by \$100,000 of First 5 L.A.'s Tot Parks and Trails program funds and \$125,000 of Cities Excess Funds.

The Cities of Maywood (Maywood) and South El Monte (South El Monte), which are both eligible applicants for Cities Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition, will each assign its right to apply for the funds for the Play Pockets at Mini Center, Riverfront, and Pixley Parks Projects to Amigos.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by providing additional recreational opportunities for children and families in the First Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grants, in the amount of \$250,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. Maywood, South El Monte, and Amigos have each met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grants will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of Regional Park and Open Space District (District), would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by the District are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for each project. The City of Maywood is the lead agency for the Riverfront Park and Pixley Park Projects. The City of South El Monte is the lead agency for the Mini Center Project.

The proposed Riverfront Park and Pixley Park Play Pockets projects in the City of Maywood are categorically exempt from CEQA. The projects, which consist of site preparation including demolition and the purchase and installation of new play equipment, concrete curbing, and surfacing to create new play pockets and a walking path for children ages 0-5 as well as their families are within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15303 and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 and 4 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the projects involve construction of new, small structures and minor alterations to land.

The proposed Mini Center Play Pocket Project in the City of South El Monte is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of site preparation including demolition and the purchase and installation of new play equipment, concrete curbing, and surfacing to create new play pockets for children ages 0-5 as well as their families is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303 and 15304 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 and 4 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves construction of new, small structures and minor alterations to land.

The proposed projects above include no expansion of an existing use, and will not involve the

removal of healthy, mature trees. Additionally, the proposed projects are not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed projects' records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Grant Project Agreements will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Grant Project Agreements will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that Amigos may proceed with the development of enhanced play areas for children and families in the First Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB

WRO:LB

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors